

REMARKS

This Response is responsive to the Office Action mailed on October 6, 2004. Claims 55-81 are pending in the application. Claims 55-81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Massie *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,587,937). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks below.

In a **Petition For Unintentionally Delayed Priority Claim Under 37 C.F.R. §1.78** filed on August 22, 2003, Applicants submitted:

“This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/511,413, filed February 23, 2000, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/248,175, now Patent No. 6,046,727, filed on February 9, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/784,198, now Patent No. 5,880,714, filed on January 15, 1997, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/583,032, filed February 16, 1996, and which issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,701,140, which was the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US94/07851, filed July 12, 1994, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/092,974, filed July 16, 1993, abandoned” (emphasis added).

This Petition was granted in a Decision on Petition mailed on September 9, 2004. Consequently, the Applicants believe that the present application is entitled to a priority date of July 16, 1993.

U.S. Patent No. 5,587,937 by Massie *et al.* was filed on August 25, 1995, which is a continuation of Ser. No. 130,639, filed on October 1, 1993. Hence, Massie *et al.* does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) with respect to the present application having a priority date of July 16, 1993. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 55-81.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

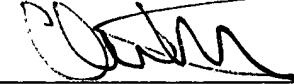
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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